

In the Specification:

Please insert the following paragraph after the title of the application:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119 to co-pending European patent application number EP03016005.5, filed July 14, 2003. This related patent application is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.--

In the Abstract:

The present invention provides a charged particle beam device. The device comprises an emitter array ~~(22)~~ for emitting a plurality of charged particle beams ~~(8)~~. The plurality of charged particle beams are imaged with a lens ~~(42)~~. An electrode unit ~~(14)~~ is provided for accelerating the plurality of charged particle beams. The potential differences between a first potential of the emitter array, a second potential of the electrode unit, and a third potential of a specimen, are controlled by a first control unit ~~(11)~~ and a second control unit. Thereby, the second potential is capable of accelerating the plurality of charged particle beams with respect to the first potential, and the third potential is capable of decelerating the plurality of charged particle beams with respect to the second potential.